



# State Farm<sup>TM</sup>

## Press Release

## Deer-Vehicle Collision Frequency Jumps 18 Percent In Five Years

*West Virginia Continues to Lead Collision Likelihood List*

**Bloomington, Ill., Sept. 28, 2009** – The number of vehicles on U.S. roadways has grown by 7 percent over the last five years. But the number of times those vehicles have collided with deer has swelled by much more than that.

Using its claims data, State Farm®, the nation's leading auto insurer estimates 2.4 million collisions between deer and vehicles occurred in the U.S. during the two-year period between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2009 (100,000 per month). That's 18.3 percent more than five years earlier. To put it another way, one of these unfortunate encounters occurs every 26 seconds (although they are much more likely during the last three months of the year and in the early evening).

### **MORE DEER-VEHICLE COLLISIONS**

Among the 35 states where at least 7,000 deer-vehicle collisions occur per year (we are not including the percentage changes in the other 15 states plus D.C. because the lower volume of total collisions makes the percentage changes less credible), New Jersey and Nebraska have posted the largest increases, 54 percent. Kansas is next at 41 percent. Deer-vehicle collisions have jumped by 38 percent in Florida, Mississippi and Arkansas. Then come Oklahoma (34 percent) and West Virginia, North Carolina and Texas (33 percent).

### **LIKELIHOOD OF DEER-VEHICLE COLLISIONS**

For the third year in a row, West Virginia tops the list of those states where a collision with a deer is most likely (for any one vehicle). Using its claims data in conjunction with state motor vehicle registration counts from the Federal Highway Administration, State Farm calculates the chances of a West Virginia vehicle striking a deer over the next 12 months at 1 in 39. Such an encounter is even more likely in West Virginia than it was a year ago.

Michigan remains second on that list. The likelihood of a specific vehicle striking a deer there is 1 in 78. Pennsylvania (1 in 94) and Iowa (1 in 104) remain third and fourth respectively. Montana (1 in 104) moved up three places to fifth.

Arkansas and South Dakota each dropped a spot to sixth and seventh. Wisconsin remains eighth. North Dakota and Virginia round out the top 10.

The state in which deer-vehicle collisions are least likely is still Hawaii (1 in 9,931). The odds of any one vehicle hitting a deer in Hawaii during the next year are roughly equivalent to the odds of randomly picking a piece of clover and finding it has four leaves.

**The average property damage cost of these incidents was \$3,050, up 3.4 percent from a year ago.**

**According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, deer-vehicle collisions in the U.S. cause more than 150 fatalities each year.**

## **AVOIDING DEER-VEHICLE COLLISIONS**

These collisions are more frequent during the deer migration and mating season in October, November and December. The combination of growing deer populations and the displacement of deer habitat caused by urban sprawl are producing increasingly hazardous conditions for motorists and deer.

"State Farm has been committed to auto safety for several decades and that's why we want to call attention to potential hazards like this one," said Laurette Stiles, State Farm Vice President of Strategic Resources. "We hope our updated information will inspire motorists to make safe decisions."

Here are tips on how to reduce the chances that a deer-vehicle collision involving your vehicle will be part of the story we tell in next year's version of this news release:

- Be aware of posted deer crossing signs. These are placed in active deer crossing areas.
- Remember that deer are most active between 6 and 9 p.m.
- Use high beam headlights as much as possible at night to illuminate the areas from which deer will enter roadways.
- Keep in mind that deer generally travel in herds – if you see one, there is a strong possibility others are nearby.
- Do not rely on car-mounted deer whistles.
- If a deer collision seems inevitable, attempting to swerve out of the way could cause you to lose control of your vehicle or place you in the path of an oncoming vehicle.

## **For more information:**

[Chart of Likelihood of Collision with Deer](#)

[Map of Likelihood of Collision with Deer](#)

[Map of Increase in Collision with Deer](#)

## **Contact:**

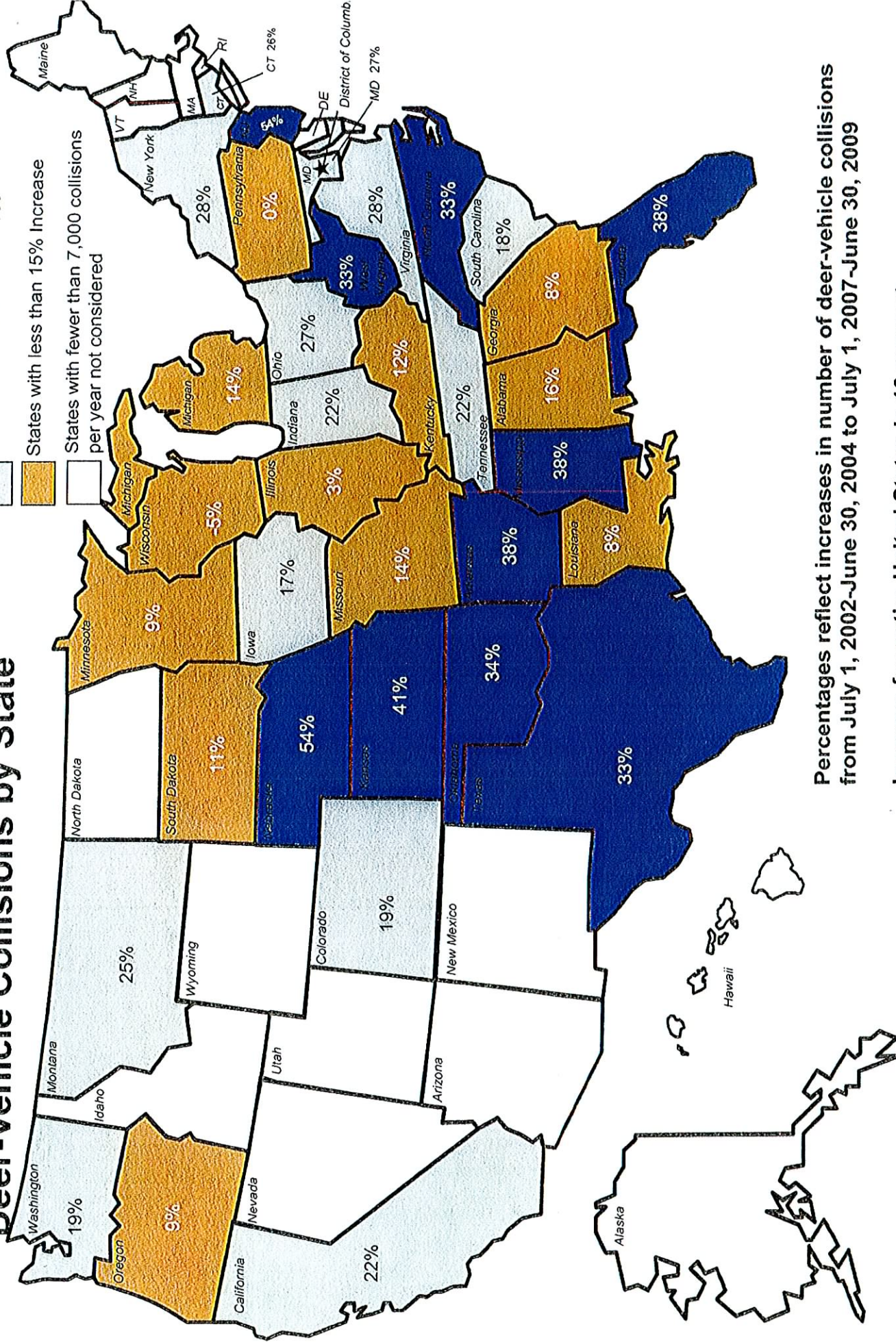
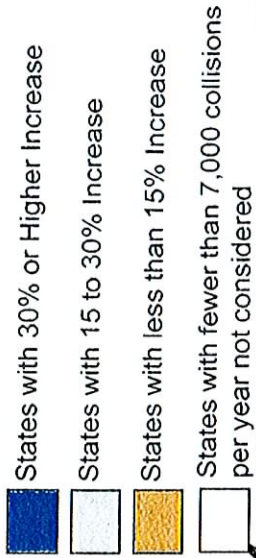
[Dick Luedke](#), Public Affairs, at (309) 766-3635.

## **About State Farm®:**

State Farm insures more cars and homes than any other insurer in the U.S., is the leading insurer of watercraft and is also a leading insurer in Canada. State Farm's 17,700 agents and 68,600 employees serve 81 million policies and accounts - more than 78.7 million auto, fire, life and health policies in the United States and Canada, and more than 1.9 million bank accounts. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company is the parent of the State Farm family of companies. State Farm is ranked No. 31 on the Fortune 500 list of largest companies. For more information, please visit [statefarm.com®](#) or in Canada [statefarm.ca®](#).



# Percentage Increase in Deer-Vehicle Collisions by State

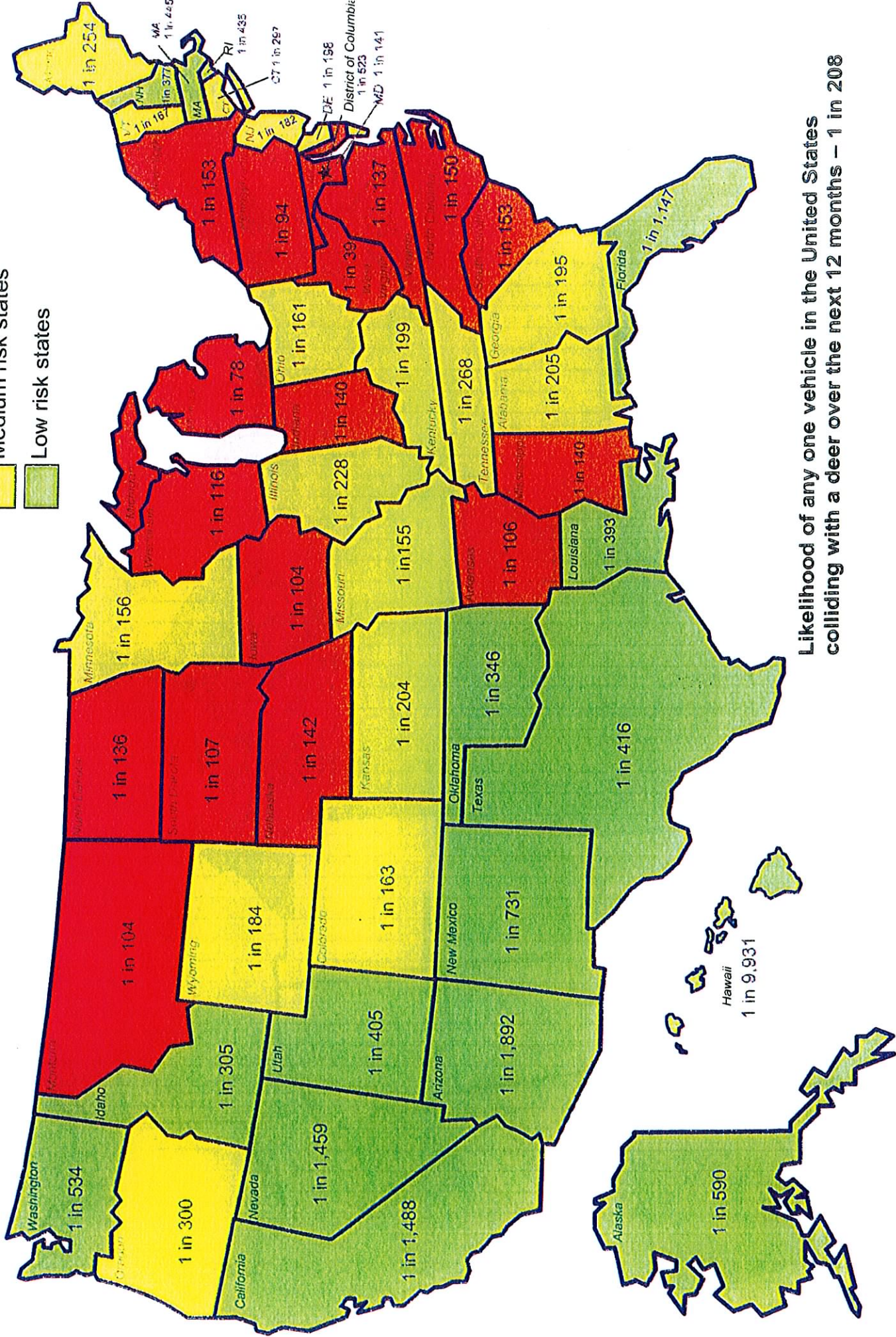
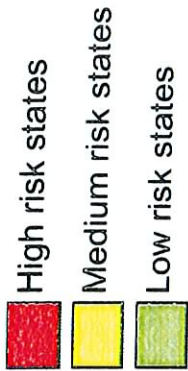


Percentages reflect increases in number of deer-vehicle collisions from July 1, 2002-June 30, 2004 to July 1, 2007-June 30, 2009

Increase for entire United States is 18 percent



# Likelihood of Deer-Vehicle Collision



Likelihood of any one vehicle in the United States colliding with a deer over the next 12 months – 1 in 208



## Likelihood of any one vehicle colliding with a deer over the next year

STATE	Estimated number of deer vehicle collisions July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009	Motor vehicle registrations as of November 2008	Likelihood of vehicle colliding with deer over the next year
ALABAMA	22,783	4,677,771	1 in 205.32
ALASKA	1,152	680,141	1 in 590.40
ARIZONA	2,311	4,372,035	1 in 1,891.84
ARKANSAS	18,974	2,010,301	1 in 105.95
CALIFORNIA	23,434	33,935,386	1 in 1,448.13
COLORADO	10,502	1,707,139	1 in 162.55
CONNECTICUT	10,256	3,047,330	1 in 297.13
DELAWARE	4,294	851,223	1 in 198.24
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	416	217,521	1 in 522.89
FLORIDA	14,361	16,473,908	1 in 1,147.13
GEORGIA	43,673	8,512,511	1 in 194.91
HAWAII	100	993,117	1 in 9,931.17
IDAHO	4,202	1,281,899	1 in 305.07
ILLINOIS	42,844	9,757,004	1 in 227.73
INDIANA	35,522	4,955,539	1 in 139.51
IOWA	32,427	3,360,196	1 in 103.62
KANSAS	11,902	2,429,064	1 in 204.09
KENTUCKY	17,814	3,546,620	1 in 199.09
LOUISIANA	10,000	3,926,741	1 in 392.67
MAINE	4,258	1,079,843	1 in 253.60
MARYLAND	31,936	4,510,464	1 in 141.23
MASSACHUSETTS	12,052	5,366,708	1 in 445.30
MICHIGAN	104,561	8,191,748	1 in 78.34
MINNESOTA	30,479	4,755,753	1 in 156.03
MISSISSIPPI	14,327	2,007,875	1 in 140.15
MISSOURI	31,774	4,916,993	1 in 154.75
MONTANA	9,103	948,528	1 in 104.20
NEBRASKA	12,261	1,739,072	1 in 141.84
NEVADA	976	1,424,322	1 in 1,459.35
NEW HAMPSHIRE	3,140	1,184,842	1 in 377.34
NEW JERSEY	34,388	6,247,130	1 in 181.67
NEW MEXICO	2,189	1,599,333	1 in 730.62
NEW YORK	74,958	11,494,513	1 in 153.35
NORTH CAROLINA	42,126	6,317,148	1 in 149.96
NORTH DAKOTA	5,215	710,537	1 in 136.25
OHIO	67,331	10,848,476	1 in 161.12
OKLAHOMA	9,333	3,224,653	1 in 345.51
OREGON	10,300	3,088,313	1 in 299.84
PENNSYLVANIA	105,843	9,937,941	1 in 93.89
RHODE ISLAND	1,833	796,683	1 in 434.63
SOUTH CAROLINA	23,035	3,521,026	1 in 152.86
SOUTH DAKOTA	8,056	864,838	1 in 107.35
TENNESSEE	19,891	5,339,946	1 in 268.46
TEXAS	43,432	18,072,148	1 in 416.10
UTAH	5,729	2,320,171	1 in 404.99
VERMONT	3,380	564,967	1 in 167.15
VIRGINIA	48,303	6,613,781	1 in 136.92
WASHINGTON	10,773	5,757,943	1 in 534.48
WEST VIRGINIA	36,089	1,413,467	1 in 39.17
WISCONSIN	43,392	5,017,895	1 in 115.64
WYOMING	3,549	652,102	1 in 183.74

UNITED STATES

1,185,884

247,264,605

1 in 208.22